Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple, Mandarthi, Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka

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Info is given under following headings: Location, address, phone number...etc., how to get there, greatness of this temple, architecture, Main deity here and subdeities, daily poojas and rituals and their charges, special poojas, sevas and their charges, festivals, facilities for devotees such as accommodation etc,, donation info, bank acct numbers etc.., nearby Temples, nearby places of tourist interest, nearby budget hotels, .any other info...etc
More info on: History of temple, Facilities available in temple, social activities, cultural programmes, Educational Institutes, Guest House, Road Map, List of Sevas, Mandarthi Yakshagana Mela background, contact Info, Photos, YouTube Videos..etc.

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AI Overview:

The Mandarthi Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple in Udupi, Karnataka, is a significant Hindu pilgrimage site dedicated to Goddess Durgaparameshwari, known for its rich legends involving cursed serpent princesses and its unique tradition of devotees performing Yakshagana as offerings (Harake) when wishes are fulfilled, offering a divine, peaceful atmosphere with facilities for pilgrims, including prasadam and accommodation.

Key Features & Legends:

- **Deity:** Sri Durgaparameshwari, with other deities like Veerabhadra, Nandi, and local Daivas.
- **Origin Story:** Legend says five serpent princesses, daughters of King Shankachooda, were cursed by Nandi; King Deva Varma found their idol in the Varahi River and consecrated it here, leading to the name Mandarthi (from 'Manda-Aarathi', meaning holy light).
- **Yakshagana Offerings:** A unique tradition where fulfilled devotees arrange Yakshagana performances at the temple.

Location & Facilities:

- **Location:** Mandarthi, Udupi District, Karnataka, about 25 km north of Udupi.

- **Transport:** Regular bus services connect Mandarthi to Udupi, Brahmavar, and Kundapur.
- **Accommodation:** A guest house with 20 rooms for devotees is available (for a small fee).
- **Food:** Free afternoon prasadam (lunch) is served daily from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM, with other food available morning and evening.
- **Other:** Parking, washrooms, and a Kalyana Mantapa (auditorium) for rent are available.

How to Visit:

- **Online Services:** The temple's website allows booking of various *sevas* (rituals) and donations.
- **Devotee Experience:** Known for its peaceful environment, many visit for protection, prosperity, and strength.

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Location

Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple is located in Mandarthi (also spelled Mandarthi or Mandarti), a village in Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka, India. It is approximately 25-26 km north of Udupi, 70 km from Mangalore, and about 65 km from Kollur Mookambika Temple.

Address and Contact

Full Address: Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple, P.O. Mandarthi, Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi District, Karnataka - 576223

Phone Numbers: 0820-2568333, 2568433, 2568533; Mobile: +91 9071160933

Email: eomandarthitemple@yahoo.in

Official Website: http://www.mandarthidurgaparameshwari.com/ (for history, facilities, and updates)

How to Get There

By Air: Nearest airport is Mangalore International Airport (IXE), about 70 km away. Take a cab or bus to Udupi, then proceed to Mandarthi.

By Train: Nearest railway station is Udupi (26 km away). Frequent buses or autos/taxis available from Udupi.

By Road: Well-connected via NH66. From Udupi, take the road towards Barkur (turn at Akashvani road from NH66 if coming from Kundapur side). Distance from Udupi: ~26 km (40-minute drive). Buses are available from Udupi bus stand.

Greatness of the Temple

This is one of the most sacred Shakti worship centers in coastal Karnataka.

The temple derives its name from "Manda-Aarathi" (holy light in Kannada).

According to legend, five snake princesses (daughters of King Shankachooda) were cursed and reached this forest site.
Later, Goddess Durga manifested here as Vana Durga (forest goddess) to bless a royal couple and sage.

In the 18th century, a new idol was installed, transforming it into Sri Durgaparameshwari.

The temple is known for fulfilling devotees' wishes, with many offering Yakshagana performances as thanksgiving (Harake Seva).

It attracts pilgrims seeking peace and divine energy in its serene, green surroundings.

Architecture

The temple follows Vijayanagara style architecture, with traditional elements typical of coastal Karnataka temples.

It features stone icons and nine ancient masks representing different forms of the goddess.

Main Deity and Sub-Deities

Main Deity: Sri Durgaparameshwari (form of Goddess Durga/Shakti).

Other Idols: Stone icons of Mahishasuramardini and Chamundeshwari; nine ancient masks depicting various manifestations of the goddess.

Daily Poojas and Rituals

Temple Timings: 5:30 AM to 8:00 PM (normal days); extended on special seva days.

Morning pooja and harathi at 5:30 AM. Daily sevas start from 7:00 AM.

Annadana (free meals): Prasadam lunch served at 1:00 PM and dinner at 8:00 PM to all devotees.

Specific daily pooja charges are not publicly listed in detail; contact the temple for current rates.
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Special Poojas, Sevas, and Charges

Special sevas include Ranga Pooja, Kenda Seva (walking on fire), Hallittu Seva, Dakke Bali, and Yakshagana Harake Seva.

Detailed lists and current charges are available on the official website or at the temple counter (as they may vary).

Common offerings include Chandika Homa and various abhishekams.

Festivals

Navratri (Dasara): 9-day celebration with special alankaras, Chandika Homa, cultural programs, and grand Yakshagana on the final day.

Annual Temple Festival (February): 3 days with Kenda Seva, Rathotsava, etc.

Kumbha Masa Sankramana: 24-hour darshan, special night sevas like Kenda Seva.

Other: Maha Shivaratri (Rudrabhisheka), Kartika Masa (Deepotsava).

Facilities for Devotees (Accommodation, etc.)

Temple Accommodation: Sri Durgaparameshwari Vasatigraha (choultry/guest house) available;
Book via official Karnataka government site: https://karnatakatemplesaccommodation.com (only authorized portal).

Free annadana meals twice daily.

Clean, peaceful atmosphere with positive vibes reported by visitors.

Donation Info and Bank Account Numbers

Donations can be made via the temple's e-services or official portals (check https://itms.kar.nic.in for HRCE department options).

Specific bank details are not listed publicly here; contact the temple executive officer or visit the official website for secure donation methods.

Nearby Temples

- Anegudde Vinayaka Temple (Kumbhashi, ~30-40 km)
- Shankaranarayana Temple

- Sri Krishna Matha, Udupi (~25 km)
- Kollur Mookambika Temple (~65 km)
- Kamalashile Brahmi Durgaparameshwari Temple
- Other Shakti temples like Kateel Durgaparameshwari (via tour packages)

Nearby Places of Tourist Interest

- Maravanthe Beach (~50 km from Udupi)
- Malpe Beach and St. Mary's Island (~30 km)
- Kapu Beach and Lighthouse
- Western Ghats hill stations and waterfalls in the region
- Barkur ancient town (historical sites, ~8 km)

Nearby Budget Hotels

Mandarthi is rural, so options are limited in the village itself. Better stays in nearby areas:

Udupi (25 km): Budget hotels like Hotel Sharada International, Samanvay Boutique Hotel (₹1,000-3,000 range).

Manipal (near Udupi): Fortune Valley View, Country Inn & Suites.

Kundapur area: UVA Meridian Bay Resort (beachside).

Search platforms like Tripadvisor or Booking.com for current availability; many pilgrims stay in temple accommodation or Udupi lodges.

Any Other Info

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The temple is praised for its cleanliness, peaceful vibe, and no long queues usually.

It's a prominent pilgrimage site for Shakti devotees in Karnataka.

Yakshagana (traditional theater) is a unique cultural highlight here.

For live updates or online services, refer to the official website or HRCE portal.

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More info:

Ref: mandarthidurgaparameshwari.com

History of Temple:

Long ago the King Shankachooda was ruling Nagaloka.He had five daughters Devarathi, Nagarathi, Charurathi, Mandarathi and Neelarathi.

Once they went to Kailasa with an aspiration of marrying the Lord Subramanya Swamy, son of the Lord Shiva. These Five princesses were stopped by Nandi (Lord Shiva's Devotee) on their way and cursed to become snakes. Instantaneously they were transformed into snakes and fell down to earth. When Vyaghrapada Maharishi who was wandering in the sahyadri Ghats saw these five snakes caught in the forest conflagration, and knew everything about them by his divine insight. He said to the five princes (now Snakes) that their cursed would be removed by a royal person in due course of time.

Meanwhile, the King of Avanthi Devavarma, who had been banished and wandering in disguise in the Sahyadri Mountains, saw these five snakes and decided to save them. He wrapped the snakes with a piece of cloth and started travelling towards the west. The snakes slid out of the cloth wrapper and reached a near by termite hill. One of the snakes called "Mandarathi" reached a part of forest, which came to be called as "Mandarthi" later.

Once the nagakanyas appearing in a dream to King Devavarma, intimated that Jalajakshi, the only princess of the King Rajaditya, was in a danger. Devavarma promptly saved the princess from the danger and protected her.

The King of Hemadri Rajaditya was greatly pleased by this and gave his daughter Jalajakshi in marriage to Devavarma and enthroned him as the King of Hemadri.

Once the queen Jalajakshi was seen by Mahisha a demon, who was born from the union of the sage Vyagrapadamuni with thamasic natured Kiratha woman. Mahisha, who was lustful, cast his evil eyes on the queen. He expressed his desire to marry her. When the queen opposed him, he became enraged and tried to posses' her by force and violence. But all the efforts made by Mahisha were fruiters. The queen Jalajakshi who was deeply hurt and sad went to her palace and told the story husband Devavarma. Later both of them decided to take shelter in the hermitage of Sudevamuni.Then, Mahisha became angry with the muni for giving shelter to the royal couple and sent "Mahodara" a demon to attack his hermitage.

Sage Sudeavamuni was a great Tapaswi who had supernatural powers. He prayed the mother Durga to protect his ashram and the royal couple from Mahodara. All of a sudden a huge termite hill appeared before the demon and swallowed all the weapons used by him.

When Mahisha himself started fighting against the muni the royal couple prayed the Divine mother Durga for protection. Then she appeared with all her might and splendor and ordered the divine spirits (Buthaganas) Veerabhadra, Haiguli, Kallukuttiga, Bobbarya to destroy all the demons.

Ultimately the demon Mahisha surrendered to the Divine Mother asked for a boon worshipped and the devotees who would do "Kenda Seva" should be amply rewarded. Later Mahisha laid his soul at the feet of the Divine mother.

Sage Sudeva and the royal couple prayed the goddess Durga with fervent devotion .Then mother Durga blessed them with assurance that she would manifest here at Mandarthi with all her power as Durgaparameshwari.

Later Devavarma found the idol of Durga in Varahi River as was guided to him by the Lord Subramanya Swamy in a dream and consecrated it with all devotion.

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Facilities available at the temple:

- Free **Prasadam facilities** provided to the Devotees visiting the Temple. Afternoon from 12.30 noon to 03:00.
- **Kalyana Mantapa** : Temple has one Auditorium and this hall is available for the Devotees on rent.
- **Parking facilities** for two and four wheelers.
- **Seva Counters** for devotees.
- **Drinking water** facilities for devotees.
- **20 Room Guest House** for devotees.
- A **Footwear Stand** arrangement is available in front of the Temple, to keep the Footwear of the Devotees.
- **Wash Room** arrangement is available at the Temple.
- **Bus facilities** are available every 30 minutes from **Udupi**, **Brahmavar** and **Kundapur** to Mandarthi Temple.
- **Bank ATM**'s are available nearby temple.

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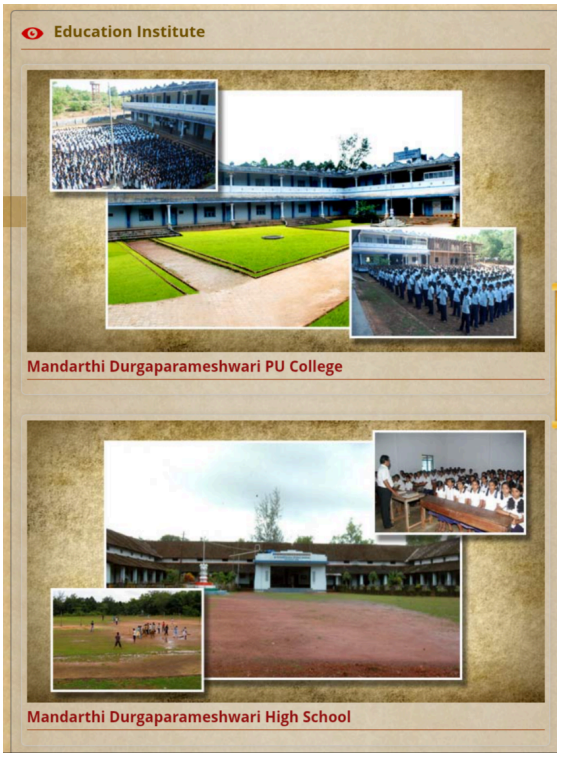
Social activities

Cultural programmes

Educational Institutes

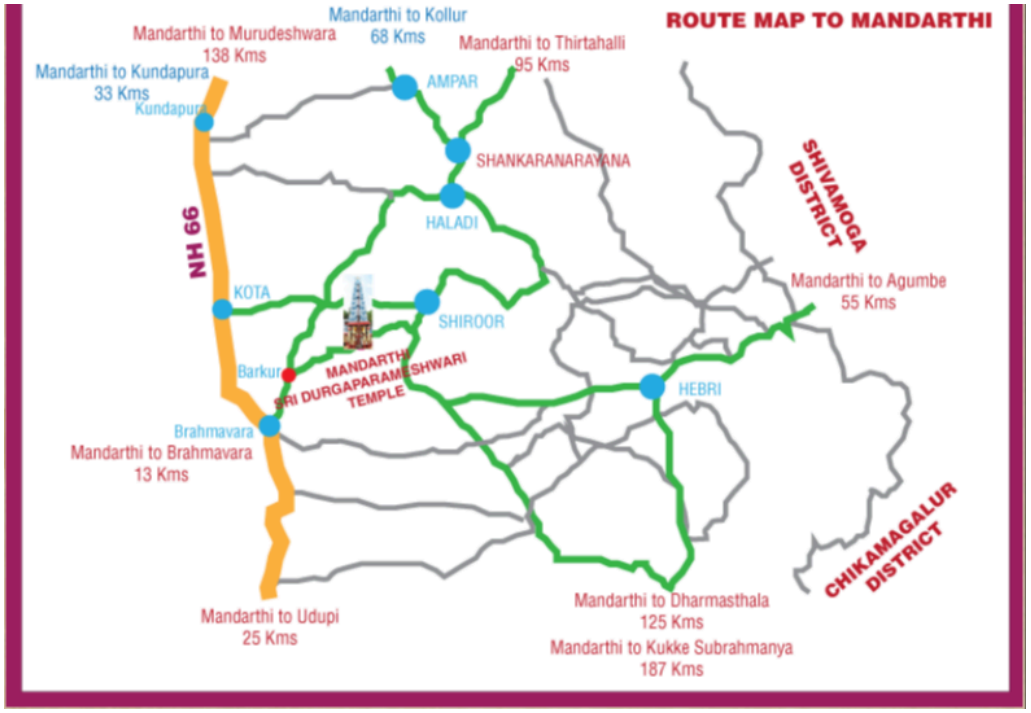


Guest House

Mandarthi Durgaparameshwari Temple Guest House

- 20 Rooms available.
- Double Bed Room.
- Morning Hot Water.

Road Map



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For detailed list of Sevas, special Sevas and their charges…see the temple website:

https://mandarthidurgaparameshwari.com/mandarthi-seva

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Background story of Mandarthi Yakshagana Mela

Once in the past there was a robber named Surgoli Anthu .He used to loot the rich people and help the poor by distributing it to them .Once he wanted to loot Lord Ganesha temple which was on a hill. While climbing the hill he was confronted with a big elephant which blocked his way. He failed to reach the temple .Then he prayed the Lord Ganesha not to stop his work of helping the poor people. Lord Ganesha told him to come alone with pure heart and devotion and take the thing which he would find for the first time. Accordingly Anthu went to the hill alone and found a box in front of the temple and took it away. While coming near to Mandarthi temple the box became very heavy and he opened it. To his surprise he found an idol of the Lord Ganesha and anklets used by Yakshagana artists. The Idol became so heavy that he could not lift it. So it had to be consecrated at Barali. Later it became famous as “Barali Ganapathi” Anthu was totally disappointed and he returned from the temple while coming near Mandarthi Temple his assistant started dancing, taking the anklets. Then he heard a voice (Akashavani) that said to him to offer the anklets to the Divine mother Durga.

This incident initiated a tradition at Mandarthi. When Yakshagana is enacted. The artists wear the dresses and get ready for the performance at the Barali Temple itself.

Now Mandarthi temple has five Yakshagana troupes each troupe has its own bus as a means of transport .The stories and episodes of the Ramayana and the Mahabharata are enacted on the stage. Nearly forty-five members constitute a "Mela" or a troupe.

The People of costal Karavali and others view Yakshagana with all earnestness and devotion. The devotees offer “Yakshagana Seva” for the fulfillment of their wishes. It has been a fine blend of Art and spirituality in life.

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Contact Info

Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple :

SRI DURGAPARAMESHWARI TEMPLE P.O MANDARTHI - 576223
BRAHMAVARA TALUK, UDUPI DIST., KARNATAKA STATE, INDIA

Tel : 0820-2568333, 2568433, 2568533
Mobile : +91 9071160933

Darshana Timing

Normal Days: 05:30 AM – 08:00 PM
Ranga Pooja Seva Day : 05:30 AM – 09:15 PM
Postal Address :

Executive Officer,

Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple, P.O Mandarthi, Brahmavara Taluk, Udupi District - 576223

Email: eomandarthitemple@yahoo.in

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Photos

YouTube Videos

Mandarthi Sri Durgaparameshwari Mahima (7 min):

https://youtu.be/eHfZWEWzmlA?si=YAK51b9mpxxGThaQ

Sri Kshetra Mandarthi - Parichaya (8 min):

https://youtu.be/JJMJVDIL5vo?si=ZDhO-vDRBu6LIUx7

Mandarthi - Dharma degula darshana (7 min):

https://youtu.be/KdWaRx1Bw3M?si=WHLJ5CWE3PSwsQyN

Visiting Mandarthi Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple - vlog (7 min):

https://youtu.be/6Jnk8XtiymU?si=54m1yGvY0NNdEI4c

Sri Durgaparameshwari Temple, Mandarthi - Dajiworld (19 min):

https://youtu.be/QDzLCN7b28s?feature=shared

Mandarthi Sri Durgaparameshwari Songs - jukebox(1 hr 54 min):

https://youtu.be/m4bBgRrAWCA?si=fZRfHig59jOZJQ0u

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar
January 11, 2026

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